

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**SANTA FE COUNTY**  
**DWI PLANNING COUNCIL**

**February 14, 2019**

**Santa Fe, New Mexico**

**I.** This meeting of the Santa Fe County DWI Planning Council was called to order by Amanda Grundler at approximately 9:00 a.m. on the above-cited date at the County Community Services Department Conference Room, 2052 Galisteo Street, Suite B, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**II.** The following members were present and no quorum was achieved:

**Members Present:**

Amanda Grundler  
Susan Skea  
Loralee Freilich  
Jose Gonzales

**Member(s) Absent:**

Tamara Zawistowski

**County Staff Present:**

Lupe Sanchez, DWI Coordinator  
Peter Olson, DWI Program  
Jared Mosher, Sheriff's Office

**Others Present:**

Ashley Schweizer, Attorney General's Office  
Amber Sanchez, Attorney General's Office  
David Povijua, Pojoaque Tribal Police  
Lt. Nathan Barto, Pojoaque Tribal Police  
Lt. Sean F. Strahon, Santa Fe Police Department

**Introductions**

Those present introduced themselves.

SFC CLERK RECORDED 08/01/2019

**III. Approval of Minutes: June 14, September 13, October 11, December 13, 2018 & January 10, 2019**

**IV. Approval of Agenda**

These items were deferred pending a quorum.

**V. Matters from the Council/Action Items**

**A. Follow-ups from previous meetings**

None arose.

**VI. Information Items**

**A. Ashley Schweizer, Traffic Safety Resource Special Prosecutor**

Ms. Schweizer stated she wanted to make herself available to the Council, and explained that all states have a Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor to bridge the gap between law enforcement and prosecutors, and to assist with training to keep everyone up to date with traffic safety issues. DWI is always a priority. They are working to address DRE (Drug Recognition Expert) matters and the administrative license revocation process, which is a separate civil hearing.

She indicated she attends trials and initiates appeals. Outcomes are progressively getting better, and the latest hearing officer seems fair, according to feedback. She noted that defense attorneys have been known to “ransack the process.” She said the City attorney Chittum prosecutes revoked driving citations and has a good success record. She encourage everyone to contact her if they have questions regarding the criminal side of things. Their jurisdiction extends statewide.

Ms. Grundler asked if Ms. Schweizer can help officers who request assistance. She said she is available around the clock. She is the only attorney doing MVD hearings statewide. Local prosecutors are responsible for the criminal side. Officer trainings help bring everyone up to speed on how to be ready for hearings.

Mr. Sanchez asked what the Planning Council could do to help and Ms. Schweizer said the key is catching issues early as they come up, so it’s good that the Council is aware of their role.

Lt. Gonzales said he has a lot more confidence in the AG’s office now that Ms. Schweizer is handling cases.

Mr. Olson asked about the Courts to Schools program. Ms. Schweizer said the challenge is getting defendants who are willing to cooperate. It is a priority and Judge Anaya is on board. Mr. Sanchez said they are working with Jenn Jefferson and Sophie Andar who work in the schools in order to acquaint them with the program.

**B. Support of Funding Request for DWI Mobile Unit**

Cpl. Mosher indicated he is working on a grant for a mobile command post. The DOT Traffic Safety Division has millions of dollars available for the purchase of equipment. The Sheriff's Office is hoping to tap into those funds for a vehicle to be used for checkpoints. It would have intoxilyzers, talking stations, and everything required to process and book offenders found at checkpoints. It would have holding cells that would allow the checkpoint to continue for a longer time. He anticipates it would cost around \$300,000, fronted by the County and reimbursed by the state grant.

Mr. Sanchez said he was hoping to recruit Planning Council members to meet with Commissioners to sell them on the idea.

Ms. Grundler asked what the command post would look like. She expressed concern regarding the calibration of the intoxilyzers. Cpl. Mosher said there are several in operation throughout the state. He is finalizing exact plans in order to get cost estimates. It would weigh under 26,000 pounds so a CDL license would not be required. It resembles a command post used for critical incidents or crime scenes. He said it would have a camera system, an awning for outdoor field sobriety tests. There are no issues keeping the IR-8000 in the field and calibrated. He estimated it would take a year to complete the construction of the command post.

Mr. Sanchez said the front money would come out of the Sheriff's budget, not the DWI program. Cpl. Mosher added the vehicle would also function as a billboard to increase visibility and awareness.

Ms. Grundler asked about opportunities for joint operations. Cpl. Mosher said checkpoints are often conducted jointly. Mr. Sanchez recalled a similar vehicle brought in by the BIA which had the advantage of providing a heated space for the officers. He emphasized the improved efficiency of being able to keep offenders at the checkpoint instead of transporting them to jail with officers. Cpl. Mosher offered to send renderings to the Council members. He added it could also be used for educational events and recruitment.

**C. Law Enforcement Update**

Mr. Olson stated January's meeting was short. He listed the agencies that are typically involved in the meetings, which provide a forum for discussion of issues of concern and coordination of joint events, such as Operation Northern Safety.

**D. Coordinator's Report**

Mr. Sanchez announced grant applications are due March 1<sup>st</sup>. He hopes to have them finalized by February 21<sup>st</sup> to deliver it to the County Manager's Officer before submission to DFA. He said compliance fees, which generally amount to around \$55,000 have to go back into the DWI program. They have traditionally used that money for

awareness campaigns, however, this year they are planning to fund a compliance position. They are also planning to increase the amount going to law enforcement overtime – checkpoints, court appearances, shoulder top operations, etc. They would also like to give funds to the Pojoaque Police.

Mr. Sanchez noted they were approached by Judge Segura about funding a navigator position for the courts. The navigator would work with individuals between arraignment and sentencing to track them and encourage treatment, and thus reduce recidivism. Dr. Skea asked if this would carry over post-conviction. Mr. Sanchez said the Corrections Department has navigators that prepare people for re-entry into the community. This is especially important if there are behavioral health issues. Special approval for this pilot program was required from DFA for the pre-conviction work; it is classified under prevention.

March 3<sup>rd</sup> will be the checkpoint conducted in memory of the Peshlakai Sisters, killed by a drunk driver in 2010. Lt. Gonzales, who was present at the scene, gave details of the incident. The driver, who had previous six arrests and four convictions for DWI, got a 40-year sentence.

Mr. Sanchez stated a new RFP has been issued and is going through Procurement for the awareness campaign. He hopes to announce the new contract at the next meeting. Additionally, \$70,000 has been set aside to offset costs for counseling services for offenders. A finalist is in place among the treatment providers and will be announced pending completion of contract negotiations.

## **VII. Miscellaneous**

### **A. Agenda Items for the Future Meetings**

- Election of Chair and Vice Chair
- PIRE report on evaluation of prevention, compliance and law enforcement
- RFP results for contracts

## **VIII. Public and Member Comments**

Ms. Freilich suggested bringing in community leaders, such as Karen Heldmeyer, who is in charge of Neighborhood Networks, a coalition of local groups.

In response to Ms. Freilich's disgust at repeat offenders being out on the street, Lt. Gonzales listed the mandatory sentencing guidelines: after the second aggravated DWI: 90 days; after the eighth offense, ten years; up to a tenth, twelve years, etc., although suspensions occur.

Ms. Freilich mentioned half-way houses as an alternative. Ms. Grundler said there are many new programs. Mr. Sanchez said Santa Fe Recovery is involved in innovative measures.

Dr. Skea asked if the recidivism was declining and Mr. Sanchez said the majority of offenders are first-timers who they never see again, but about 30 percent are repeat offenders, often with addiction issues.

Ms. Grundler reminded the Council that the City's forfeiture program was suspended, however, the City Attorney's Office is working on five cases in the Court of Appeals and there are attempts to bring the program back.

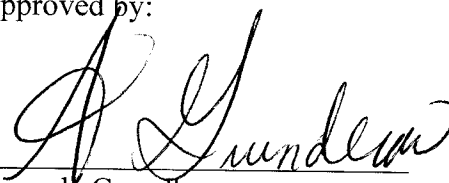
**IX. Announcements**

**A. Next Planning Council Meeting: Thursday, March 14, 2019**

**X. Adjournment**

Having completed the agenda and with no further action to come before the Council, this meeting adjourned at approximately 10:12 a.m.

Approved by:



Amanda Grundler  
DWI Planning Council

Respectfully submitted by:

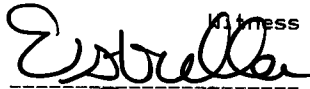
Debbie Doyle, Wordswork

COUNTY OF SANTA FE )  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) ss

DWI MINUTES  
PAGES: 5

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for  
Record On The 1ST Day Of August, 2019 at 11:24:45 AM  
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1892817  
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Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office  
Geraldine Salazar  
Deputy  County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM



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